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Ph: 2496520 / 21 / 23 Fax: 2496530
E-mail: voice@starofmysore.com
ad@starofmysore.com

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City Offices: K.R. Circle Ph: 2431774
Devaraja Urs Road Ph: 2428695
Visit: www.starofmysore.com

Many swab-collection centres to come up in city

● Private laboratory readied by JSS awaits approval

● More labs to encourage voluntary testing

Dr. Amrutha, head of Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory at Mysore Medical College and Research Institute leading a team of professional swab testing personnel at the lab this morning. Picture right shows testing under progress at the laboratory. *[Pic. by M.N. Lakshminarayana Yadav]*

Mysuru, June 23 (MTY&BCT)- To encourage people to get voluntarily get tested for COVID-19, Influenza-like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) symptoms, the Mysuru District Administration is opening many swab-collection centres across Mysuru. This apart an exclusive private testing laboratory will come up in Mysuru where people can undergo tests.

In a message to *Star of Mysore* this morning, Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar said that JSS Group has come up with a modern and well-equipped laboratory to test Coronavirus patients. "JSS is awaiting a nod from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) as NABL has the authority to approve private labs. Once operational, people have to pay and get tested there," the DC said.

The NABL approval is mandatory as sample collection, diagnosis and testing require trained staff and expertise otherwise it may lead to incorrect diagnosis in a pandemic situation like this.

The trauma of being diagnosed with COVID is leading people to refrain from getting tested. Also, many people are not willing to get tested at the COVID hospital because they fear getting infected there as testing is free there. "Apart from the existing Fever Clinics, we are opening many swab-collection centres across the city to encourage people to get voluntarily tested in case they have symptoms or have a travel history," the DC said and added that the administration has taken this step to decentralise the testing centres, to test more people.

According to mental health experts, issues like anxiety and depression had witnessed a sharp rise in the last three months. The most common problem patients are complaining of is that they are depressed and anxious. Even if they have a minor cough, they become worried that they may have contracted COVID-19 and they refrain from getting themselves tested for fear of being whisked away to quarantine centres.

Till now, only the state-of-the-art Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) at the Department of Microbiology in Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (K.R. Hospital) has been authorised to test COVID-19 samples.

(See CENTRES on page 6)

Mysuru reports 21 COVID-19 cases; total stands at 191

Mysuru City Corporation staff and Health Department personnel sanitise and seal Kothwal Ramaiah Road in Devaraja Mohalla in city this morning.

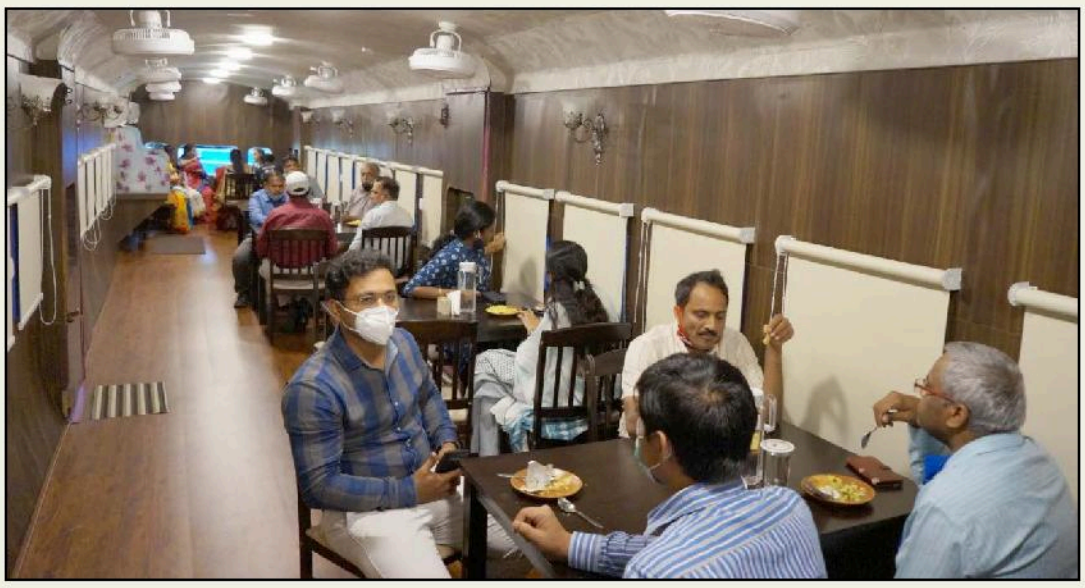
Mysuru, June 23 (RK,MTY&BCT)- Coronavirus positive cases are increasing by the day and today, Mysuru reported 21 cases. The rising number of cases is a worrying factor for people who are just getting used to their normal routines post lockdown. With the latest 21 cases, the number of cumulative positive cases have gone up to 191. Of them, 112 cases have been cured and discharged.

The Administration too is on toes by sending Health and Police teams to seal down the areas where positive cases are emerging.

(See CASES on page 6)

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya

Coach Cafeteria opens in refurbished Mysuru Rail Museum



Mysuru, June 23- One of the many new features of the revamped Rail Museum in city is the 'Coach Restaurant'. It has been opened for Museum visitors. Stabled at vantage point for the visitors to have a magnificent view of several outdoor exhibits like steam locomotives, vintage gabled style iconic wayside Railway Station, level crossing gate and a green tunnel and the lovely amphitheatre in a lush green backdrop.

The customised Coach Restaurant with soothing ambience has a seating capacity of 20 at four per table. It gives an immediate reconnect with the train journeys, you can sit to relish hygienically prepared snacks/light refreshments and beverages like coffee and tea.

Aparna Garg, Divisional Railway Manager, South Western Railway (SWR), Mysuru Division, and President, South Western Railway Women's Welfare Organization (SWRWWO) inaugurated the Coach Restaurant yesterday. Office-bearers of SWRWWO, under whose aegis this Coach Restaurant will operate on 'no-profit-no-loss' model, Sr. Officers of the Division were present on the occasion.

Since it has been reopened after COVID-19 restriction lifted recently, there has been a steady flow of visitors to the Museum, and with opening of this cafeteria it will be an added attraction to the visitors, stated a press release from Priya Shetty, Divisional Commercial Manager and PRO.

COVID-19: Implement lockdown guidelines strictly, says CM

Yediyurappa

Bengaluru, June 23 (UNI)- Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, taking strong exception to increasing COVID-19 cases and death in the State, called for strict implementation of guidelines of lockdown against quarantine violations even as Minister for Medical Education Dr. K. Sudhakar announced 14 days quarantine for returnees from other States.

In his twitter handle, Dr. Sudhakar wrote, "Karnataka is steadily maintaining a healthy recovery rate of 61.39 percent and the mortality rate remains low at 1.49 per cent. We are continuing to effectively trace all contacts of the positive case within 24 hours and every inter-State arrival is being quarantined for 14 days."

"Quarantine norms for inter-State travellers depend on the origin State. For returnees from Maharashtra, 7 days institutional quarantine followed by 7 days home quarantine. For returnees from Tamil Nadu and Delhi 3 days Institutional quarantine followed by 11 days home quarantine. 14 days home quarantine for other States," he said in another tweet.

The CM, who chaired a review meeting on the subject directed officials to implement lockdown guidelines strictly in the clusters which reported more cases, especially in Bengaluru's K.R. Market and surrounding areas such as Siddapura, V.V. Puram, Kalasipalya etc. The meeting has decided to seal the adjoining streets, where the cases are reported, a release from the Chief Minister's office said. Stringent action would be taken against those who violate quarantine norms and FIR would be filed if necessary, it said.

Officers were directed to fix rates for COVID treatment in private hospitals. The meeting also decided to set up fever clinics in all wards. Officers were further directed to maintain hygiene and provide other basic amenities to those people who were quarantined in social welfare hostels and other Government institutions.

Yediyurappa said that COVID-19 should be contained without affecting the economic activities in Bengaluru, adding that booth level officers and volunteers are working hard to trace contact and monitor the quarantined persons. He further said that the war room shall have real-time information on the availability of beds in various COVID hospitals and shall facilitate the infected to avail treatment without losing any time.

Deputy Chief Minister Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan, Revenue Minister R. Ashoka, Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Chief Secretary T.M. Vijayabhaskar, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner Vandita Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Health Department, Jawaid Akhtar and other senior officers were present.

MLA Ramdas inspects water supply at households in MCC Wards

Mysuru, June 23 (RKB&DM)- As part of a measure to ensure piped drinking water supply to localities, Krishnaraja MLA S.A. Ramdas recently visited several households in areas coming under MCC Ward Numbers 60, 61 and 62 coming under his Constituency and inspected the supply of water from Kabini river.

JUSCO Company had taken up the contract for executing 24x7 drinking water supply project in 2010-11, which envisaged drawing of water from Kabini reservoir. But JUSCO stopped the works midway following which the project remained in limbo. However, the project resumed in 2016 and once again hit roadblocks. But taking the initiative, MLA Ramdas held a series of meetings for the completion of the project, which is now almost complete.

With the project ready for implementation, Ramdas inspected several households in the three Wards and checked whether the supplied water has enough pressure to reach the first and second floors of households.

Speaking on the occasion, Ramdas said that several areas of his KR Constituency are expected to get more water from Kabini in the next three months. Pointing out that the work on providing new water connections to households in his constituency is underway, the MLA maintained that the 24x7 water supply will become effective once Kabini and Melapura drinking water projects get technical approval.

Corporators Shanta Vadivelu and Shobha, BJP KR President M. Vadivelu, leaders Vidya Urs, Murali, Uma were present.

VOICE OF THE READER

Shift manholes from the centre of roads to sides

Sir,

We see many times people complain about the bad conditions of roads and after suffering for so many months and reports published in media, the concerned will initiate action to metal the same. But the pleasure of driving on the re-metalled road will not last for long. Reason: Just within two or three weeks, MCC will start digging the same road where there are manholes at the centre of the road.

First of all, no need to mention about the quality of such roads. On top of this, once such newly re-metalled roads are dug, the roads are corroded and the same state of affairs continues within a very short time. This could be seen for four or five decades. Still, no elected representative or any authorities have made up their minds to find a permanent solution.

There are instances of Corporators and Ministers concerned visiting places like Singapore, England to study such issues but to no avail.

Here is a suggestion. Let the MCC map all the manholes at the centre of the roads in the city. A suitable plan can be devised to shift such manholes on the centre of the road to the side of the road so that at any point of time, road cutting is avoided and even when the manhole is opened it does not create damage to the roads laid.

This may cost more by 20 to 30 percent of the road cutting work which MCC undertakes. However, when compared to the shabby roads and relaying or filling temporarily, the cost is negligible. Will MCC think on these lines and plan a strategy?

— Vijay Hemmige
on e-mail

Mysuru
18.6.2020

Inner Wheel Club of Mysore Central distributes masks to Pourakarmikas

Mysuru, June 23 (MTY&SD)- On the occasion of Mask Day, Inner Wheel Club of Mysore Central distributed reusable masks to Pourakarmikas at a simple function held near Dufferin Clock Tower in city recently.

Speaking on the occasion, MCC Health Officer Dr. D.G. Nagaraju said, "Even during the lockdown period, Pourakarmikas were working day and night to keep the cities clean and hygienic and we should be thankful to them. It is laudable that members of Inner Wheel Club of Mysore Central are distributing reusable masks to these hard-working Pourakarmikas. As wearing mask is compulsory for all of us, people should come forward to donate masks to poor people. We should also cultivate the habit of dispensing used masks in a proper way. We should not throw them on the streets as there is a risk of infection spread."

President of Inner Wheel Club of Mysore Central Kavitha Vinod lauded the efforts of all the Pourakarmikas who are exposing themselves to risks so that we can stay healthy and safe. "At this primary stage, Club members have organised this mask distribution programme. In the upcoming days, we are planning to organise many more social welfare activities by maintaining social distancing," she said.

Inner Wheel Club of Mysore Central convenor Lakshmi Arun, Past President Chandrika Sudhir, M.N. Prema and others were present.

CESC public contact programme tomorrow

Mysuru, June 23- The Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Company (CESC) will hold Public Contact Programme at its Varuna, Central and Chamundipuram Sub-Divisions tomorrow (June 24).

While the contact programme will take place at 11 am at Varuna and Central Sub-Divisions, the same will be held at Chamundipuram Sub-Division at 3 pm tomorrow. The members of the public can come up with their grievances in writing regarding power issues and find solutions to their problems.

Ashraya Hastha Trust partners with SVYM

Provides Reproductive and Child Health in the difficult-to-reach tribal areas located in the fringes of Bandipur and Nagarahole National Parks

Mysuru, June 23- Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM), a development organisation working in the field of health, education, socio-economic empowerment programme and training and research with the experience of over 35 years in a development sector, has announced its partnership with the Ashraya Hastha Trust, a charitable organisation funded by Infosys Co-Founder K. Dinesh and his family.

The partnership is into its second year and boosting up the present programme of SVYM with a goal to support the Reproductive & Child Health (RCH) programme in all the tribal hamlets of H.D. Kote, Saragur, Gundlupet, Nanjangud, Hunsur and Virajpet taluks across Mysuru, Kodagu and Chamarajanagar districts in the State. This partnership is reaching 275 tribal hamlets and a population of 51,000 which includes the particularly vulnerable tribal group of Jenu Kurubas.

RCH is a technology-enabled programme which works on the concept of providing the entire journey of antenatal and postnatal care including the most important event of labour. The programme identifies eligible couples and monitors them from the journey of conception to labour and completion of nine months of child including the primary immunisation coverage.

The main focus of the programme includes early identification of the high risk pregnancy, facilitate them with the social entitlements and additional support by offering medical care. The programme is expected to reach minimum 1,200 high risk pregnant mothers from the vulnerable tribal community.

One of the key challenges faced by pregnant women in the tribal areas across three districts is the access to institutional deliveries — the reasons for this are multi-factorial including:

Reluctance toward opting for institutional deliveries; lack of awareness of both the need as well as the importance/ benefits of Institutional deliveries; availability of quality institutions that can offer access to institutional deliveries; logistical issues in times of emergencies and during deliveries; poor quality roads; ganger from wild animals; availability of vehicles/ ambulances; poor network connectivity; poverty — financial as well as 'voice' poverty.

Jayamma from Jenu Kuruba tribe in Dammanakatte, a remote tribal haadi, was brought to VMH as an emergency high risk pregnancy during lockdown in an extremely difficult condition. She gave birth to a baby with low birth weight 1.920 kilograms in need of neonatal care for some days at the hospital. This is one of the many stories RCH team witnessed during lockdown.

Even during the COVID pandemic-associated lockdown and with Section 144 having been imposed even across the tribal areas, SVYM continued its outreach across the tribal hamlets of H.D. Kote in addition to covering parts of Gundlupet, Nanjangud, Hunsur and Virajpet taluks.

"SVYM's aim is to enable and ensure that all pregnant tribal women avail hospital care and opt for institutional deliveries and have the opportunity to access all the facilities in order to reduce mother and child mortality," says Dr. Dennis Chauhan, Head of Community Based Programmes, SVYM

Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM) is a development organisation, engaged in building a new civil society in India through its grassroots to policy level action in the sectors of Health, Education and Community Development.

Ashraya Hastha Trust has been active during the COVID-19 pandemic in providing assistance and service including collaborating with the Indian Army in "Operation Namaste" contributing 25 ventilators primarily to enable hospitals in augmenting their capacity to treat patients of COVID-19. The Trust has also partnered with several other philanthropic institutions, Trusts and NGOs to further help during these difficult times.

Congress distributes free petrol to 150 auto drivers in protest against rising fuel prices

Mysuru, June 23 (RKB&DM)- The Congress party on Saturday registered its protest against rising fuel prices by distributing one litre petrol for free to 150 auto drivers of the city. Former KR MLA M.K. Somashekar launched the free petrol distribution at Amma Community Hall in Dattagalli.

Speaking on the occasion, Somashekar slammed the Centre for rising fuel prices, which is pinching the pockets of the common man, who is already put to a lot of hardship due to COVID-19 induced lockdown.

Later, a meeting to discuss the preparations for the coronation of D.K. Shivakumar as KPCC President was held. Taluk Panchayat Member Mahadevamma, party leaders Gurupadaswamy, Umashankar, Chandru Vishwakarma, Praveen, Donald, Vijayalakshmi, Charanraj, Sathanur Nagesh, Hinkal Manju and others were present.

Murder for professional rivalry

Seven 'supari' killers arrested

Prime accused couple, others absconding; car, two bikes, weapons seized

Mysuru, June 23 (RK&KS)- Vijayanagar Police have arrested seven 'supari' killers in connection with the murder of a youth in broad daylight on June 17 in Vijayanagar Fourth Stage. The murder was committed over professional rivalry and competition to cash-in on increased customer base of beauty care.

Arshith

The 'supari' killers had murdered Ashrith (31), one of the partners of 'Infinity Hair and Skin Solution,' a hair grafting clinic at Vijayanagar 1st Stage on June 17 at about 10.30 am. Ashrith was found lying in a pool of blood at about 11 am at Vijayanagar 4th Stage and he breathed his last while being shifted to a hospital.

The 'supari' killers were arrested in Bengaluru within a few days of the crime and the Police have launched a hunt to nab the prime accused couple and others who are absconding.

The arrested 'supari' killers are 30-year-old Naveen of Kammanahalli R.S. Palya, 32-year-old Ashok alias Bharat of Janakiram Layout, 25-year-old S. Prashanth alias Rocky of Byappanahalli, 32-year-old R. Johnny alias John of Gajendranagar, 19-year-old Mubarak alias Hrithik of New Lingarajapuram in Janakiram Nagar, 25-year-old Mahesh and 29-year-old S. Dinesh of Byappanahalli.

Following the murder of Ashrith, another partner of 'Infinity Hair and Skin Solution,' Goutham, had lodged a complaint with Vijayanagar Police, accusing Rajaram and his wife Shelly Latter, owners of 'Hair and Skin Factory' at Vijayanagar 1st Stage of murdering Ashrith.

Suspects picked up from Bengaluru

Vijayanagar Police, who had registered a case, had picked up nine suspects from Bengaluru in connection with the case and investigation had revealed that four persons were directly involved in the murder while they were indirectly helped by a couple and other persons.

The Police, based on the CCTV footages of cameras which had captured the scenes of murder and the killers fleeing from the spot and mobile phone tower location, left for Bengaluru and picked up one of the accused Naveen from Kammanahalli R.S. Palya on Saturday late night and interrogated him during which Naveen spilled the beans.

Based on the information provided by Naveen, the Police arrested the remaining six 'supari' killers at about 5.30 am on Sunday within 24 hours of getting information and seized two bikes, one car, a knife and lethal weapons used for the crime from them.

Own business caused rivalry

During interrogation, the accused have confessed of murdering Ashrith for which they had received 'supari' from Rajaram and his wife Shelly. They also revealed that Ashrith was the former employee at Hair and Skin Factory owned by Rajaram and Shelly, who had quit the job and started his own business along with Goutham, Manasa and Manju (all former employees of Rajaram and Shelly) in the name 'Infinity Hair and Skin Solution' at Vijayanagar 1st Stage.

The accused also revealed that as Ashrith knew the trade secrets while working at the firm of Rajaram and Shelly, the former employers had given 'supari' to eliminate Ashrith following which they murdered him.

Prime accused couple, others absconding

Prime accused couple Rajaram and Shelly Latter, who had allegedly given 'supari' to eliminate Ashrith, have gone absconding along with others and the Police have launched a hunt to nab them. The couple, along with others, has gone absconding since June 17, the day Ashrith was murdered and their mobile phones are switched off, according to Investigation Officer and Vijayanagar Inspector H.N. Balakrishna.

Two investigation teams have been formed and the Police officials have spread a dragnet to nab the couple and others involved in the murder. Vijayanagar Police, who arrested the seven 'supari' killers in Bengaluru on Sunday, brought them to Mysuru and produced before the Magistrate, at his residence on Sunday evening, who remanded the seven accused to judicial custody.

Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda and M.S. Geetha and N.R. Sub-Division ACP Shivashankar supervised Vijayanagar Inspector H.N. Balakrishna, Hebbal Inspector T. Cheluvegowda and staff in the nabbing operation.

OBITUARY

Prof. B.B. Rajapurohit

Mysuru, June 23- Prof. B.B. Rajapurohit (86), retired Deputy Director of Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) and a resident of Saraswathipuram, passed away in the wee hours of today.

A retired Professor of Linguistics and Phonetics and an author, he leaves behind daughters Kalpana and Vandana, sons-in-law and grandchildren, who are settled in America and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed by his friends and well-wishers at Chirashanthidhama in Gokulam this noon, according to sources.

Moulana Ahamed Khan Dilbar Rashadi

Moulana Ahamed Khan Dilbar Rashadi (62), Khatib-o-Imam of Shai Masjid in city, Vice-President of Darul Uloom Siddiqia, Mysuru and a resident of Umar Khayam Road in Tilak Nagar,

passed away this morning at his residence following brief illness. He leaves behind his wife, a son, four daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Namaz-e-Janaza was held after Asar at Masjid-e-Khudadad, Siddiqia Arabic College on Mysuru-Bengaluru Road today, followed by burial at the Muslim Burial Grounds, near Tipu Circle, according to sources.

Puttamadamma

Puttamadamma (92), mother of former MLC Siddaraju, passed away yesterday. She leaves behind three sons, four daughters and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at Maalangi near Talakad this noon, according to family sources.

Rider escapes with minor injuries as huge tree falls on road

Mysuru, June 23 (PM&KS)- A huge Gulmohar tree on Sayyaji Rao Road near Agrahara Circle, which had become hollow, fell on the road this morning injuring a two-wheeler rider.

The two-wheeler rider, identified as Kumar, was passing by the road when the tree fell on him resulting in Kumar sustaining minor injuries on his hands and legs. Kumar was rushed to a hospital by the public for treatment. The Mysuru City Corporation's (MCC) Abhaya team, which rushed to the spot, cleared the tree and made way for smooth flow of traffic.

Fisheries Minister in Mysuru tomorrow

Mysuru, June 23- Minister for Fisheries, Muzrai, Ports and Inland water Transport, Kota Srinivas Poojari will be visiting the city tomorrow (June 24).

The Minister, who will arrive in city at 2.30 pm, will conduct a progress review meeting of Fisheries and Muzrai Departments at the Deputy Commissioner's office at 3 pm, following which he will address a press meet at 5.30 pm. He will leave for Bengaluru later at 6 pm, according to a release.

Five positives in Mysuru, Kodagu, Chamarajanagar

Mysuru DC warns hospitals for not providing COVID, ILI and SARI details

An area in Vijayanagar 1st Stage sealed by Mysuru City Corporation.

Mysuru, June 23 (BCT)- Mysuru district registered one COVID-19 positive case yesterday. The infected person is a lecturer in a private college who had a travel history of Bengaluru. In all, the Mysuru, Kodagu and Chamarajanagar districts registered five cases yesterday.

The infected 46-year-old lady lecturer had been to Bengaluru on June 16 and had purchased vegetables and groceries in K.R. Market and had returned to Mysuru. She purchased mutton near Dattagalli KEB Circle and had been to two clinics in Kuvempunagar.

The residential area of Dattagalli J Block 13th Main, fourth cross where the lecturer is staying has been sealed down. Over 40 residents of the area have been asked not to come out of their houses. The place has been declared as a containment zone and Mysuru City Corporation officials have made arrangements to supply essential commodities after sanitisation.

In Chamarajanagar town and Gundlupet, two new positive cases have been confirmed. The infected are a Taluk office lady staff in Chamarajanagar and a truck driver from Gundlupet. The lady officer had come to Mysuru recently and she developed fever. Her swab tests confirmed that she had contracted the disease.

The truck driver from Gundlupet was a primary contact of another truck driver in Mahadevprasad Nagar who had tested positive a couple of days back. In all four positives have been confirmed in Chamarajanagar and one person has been cured and discharged.

2 cases in Kodagu

Two fresh Covid-19 cases were reported in Kodagu district yesterday. One of the persons infected had returned from Dubai and had been in quarantine in the district COVID hospital since then. Another person belongs to Shirangala village in Handli Gram Panchayat limits, near Shanivarasanthe. He had a travel history in Gadag district.

The 40-year-old person from Shirangala village had travelled to Bengaluru and Gadag in a car returned to Kodagu on June 18. On Sunday, he went voluntarily for a check-up at the COVID Hospital and tested positive. Shirangala, with a population of 120, is being sealed down and the patient's kin have been home quarantined. Authorities are trying to trace his contacts in Bengaluru and Gadag.

36 Police officers quarantined

Over 36 Police officials, including Inspector General of Police Southern Range Vipul Kumar, Mysuru Superintendent of Police C.B. Ryshyanth and Additional SP P.V. Sneha, Mysuru Rural Dy.SP Sumith, Inspector Lava are under quarantine as a Police personnel tested positive for COVID-19. While IGP, SP and ASP are under home quarantine, other officers are in facility quarantine. A Policeman, also an assistant to the investigation officer who is probing the theft case of 50 live .303 bullets of rifles from T. Narasipur Police Station, tested positive.

The Policeman worked closely with the higher officials and also visited SP and IGP's office. While 22 persons are primary contacts, the remaining are secondary contracts.

Private hospitals cautioned

Meanwhile, Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar has warned private medical establishments to submit proper reports of Influenza-like Illness (ILI), Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) and COVID-19 suspected cases.

In a press release, the DC said that though the District Administration had asked all private medical establishments to report these cases on a daily basis through the website: *https://kpme.karnataka.tech,* it has been found that several medical establishments have failed to report the same.

As such, action will be taken against such establishments for non-compliance of instructions, the release said. The DC further said that the throat swab tests of all patients found with SARI and ILI symptoms will be conducted for free.

Fresh landslides in Kodagu

Experts for urgent long-term ecological damage prevention policy

Madikeri, June 23 (UNI)- Following fresh landslides reported at Madikeri in Kodagu district, there is an urgent need for a long-term environment mitigation policy, besides a halt on wanton destruction of the local environment.

Following the latest landslip in Madikeri town last week, the Kodagu district administration has decided to shift 13 families to safety, bringing the focus back on the ecological sensitivity of the region which has been ignored. This is the third consecutive year that the district is witnessing landslides.

A study by a team of experts from the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, has highlighted the dangers of the increased landslip if the current development trend is allowed to continue.

The findings are by T.V. Ramachandra, S. Vinay and S. Bharat of Energy and Wetlands Research Group, Centre for Ecological Sciences of Indian Institute of Science, and it has been published in a paper titled 'Urban Dynamics in Coorg District, Karnataka' in the ENVIS Technical Report.

The study assessed the land-use dynamics of the district and the results indicated that the built-up area has increased from 1.55 per cent to 2.69 per cent in three years from 2016 to 2019. Besides, the native vegetation cover including forest, scrub jungles, sacred groves have declined from 45.44 per cent of the land area to 44.46 per cent.

The other findings of the study also have environmental implications and it points out that the interior forest cover of the district had declined from 24 per cent to 22.23 per cent. The proposal of new layouts, resorts, highway expansions and linear projects will encourage higher land-use changes, according to the study.

It stated that the urbanisation process has led to chaotic growth in the region and called for determining the rate and trend of land-use conversion for devising a rational land use policy.

Based on the land use pattern for 2016 and 2019, the authors predicted the landscape dynamics for 2031, which indicated an increase in the built-up areas in Madikeri, Kushalnagar, Virajpet, Gonikoppal, and Somwarpet.

Also, the influence of road networks and tourism will encourage urbanisation along highways and identified Kodilpet, Suntikoppa, Hebbale, Madapura, Napoklu, Ammathi etc., as per the study.

Minister Eshwarappa visits

Nanjangud Drinking Water Station

Nanjangud, June 23 (RS & DM)- Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister K.S. Eshwarappa on Saturday visited Drinking Water Supply Station near Mahadevanagara in the taluk. Eshwarappa's visit comes following an appeal made by Nanjangud MLA B. Harshavardhan, who had complained about poor quality of works and broken water supply pipelines, which had resulted in wastage of enormous quantity of precious potable water.

Speaking to presspersons after inspecting the Station, Eshwarappa said that he has directed the officials to prepare an estimate for laying of Steel pipes by July 15. Once the estimate is submitted, the Department will initiate the tender process for the execution of works, he said and assured that the Department will find a permanent solution to the drinking water woes of the 52 villages that are covered under the project.

He further said that a probe will be ordered into the alleged poor quality of works and action will be initiated against those found guilty. MLA B. Harshavardhan too spoke. Kollegal MLA N. Mahesh, Nanjangud Taluk Panchayat President B.S. Mahadevappa, Members Shivanna, B.S. Ramu and Mahadeva Nayaka, Taluk BJP President Mahesh and others were present.

Re-opening of schools before Dasara holidays is unlikely in Karnataka

Bengaluru, June 23 (UNI)- The opening of schools in State, is unlikely before Dasara festival, as a majority of the parents are averse to send their children due to the COVID-19 scare.

According to official sources, in the State Education Department, a majority of parents, who were asked to give their opinion on re-opening of schools in the state, have reportedly favoured continuing the closing of schools till September.

The Primary and Secondary Education Department had received feedback from various stakeholders including educational institutions, parents and Teachers, clocking high towards not opening the schools for the 2020-21 academic year till Dasara days.

The department had directed all the District Education Officers to send the feedback received from the public and majority of the districts had sent it so far. While some sections of parents had sought for the closure of schools till Dasara holidays, some more had favoured shutting the schools till a credible medicine was discovered for COVID disease, the sources said.

"A final decision would be taken only after receiving feedback from all the districts and compilation of their opinions," a senior official said. "There are some sections of parents, who are working from home, however, opined in favour of early re-opening of schools" the sources added.

Nirvana Yoga Shhala hosts yoga session on Yoga Day

The International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated at Nirvana Yoga Shhala - A School for Yoga and Tantra located in Gokulam 2nd Stage by holding a yoga session in accordance with the social distance guidelines that is in place due to COVID-19 pandemic. Foreign students, who are staying back in the institution, and also other students of the Yoga School took part in the yoga session that was led by Institution Founder Shashikumar. Yoga trainer Karthik was also present. The yoga session was live-streamed. Nirvana Yoga Shhala has students across the globe and over 20,000 performed yoga by watching the live-streaming session.

SSLC exam from June 25

All 139 exam centres to be open tomorrow

Circles being marked to maintain social distancing and disinfectant being sprayed at Avila Convent, one of the exam centres in city this morning.

Mysuru, June 23 (MTY&KS)- DDPI Panduranga, speaking to *Star of Mysore*, said that all 139 SSLC exam centres in Mysuru district will be open tomorrow (June 24) from 10 am to 2 pm to help students find their exam rooms and prevent rush on the exam day (starting from June 25).

The DDPI said that out of the total 39,822 students in Mysuru district, 851 students will be taking their exams in other districts while 338 students from other districts will be writing their exams in Mysuru district.

Pointing out that the Education Department for the first time has taken 54 KSRTC buses on rent at a cost of Rs. 5,000 per bus to ferry students to the exam centres, Panduranga said that the buses would pick up the students from designated spots and drop them to the exam centres and again pick them up from the exam centres and drop them to the designated spots.

Mysuru reports 21 COVID cases

(Continued from page 1)

Today's 21 cases have to be confirmed by the Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar in his daily media bulletin in the evening. However, many areas where the positives are reported are being sealed and people there have been advised not to venture out of their homes.

Also, many offices, both Government and private are regulating the entry of visitors. Be it offices, hospitals, public offices like Police Stations, Mysuru City Corporation, CADA Office, Tahsildar Office and other public utility offices, people are either being screened with thermal scanners or being questioned at the entrance on the purpose of their visit.

Today's one case has been reported from RBI where a 29-year-old CISF personnel who has a travel history of Jaipur in Rajasthan testing positive. The other cases are Gayathripuram Police quarters (50-year-old Policeman), Kothwal Ramaiah Road Devaraja Mohalla (28-year-old male), Rajkumar Road (54-year-old male), 28-year-old male, 60-year-old male, 53-year-old female and 79-year-old female from Raghavendra extension.

A 29-year-old female from Madegowda Circle has tested positive and she has a travel history of Chennai. A 23-year-old female from Housing Board Colony in Hootagalli, an 8-year-old boy and a 10-year-old girl from Srirampura Second Stage, 39-year-old female from RBI Note Printing Nagar, who has a travel history of Tamil Nadu has contracted the disease.

Primary contacts of P-9399 from Dattagalli, a 15-year-old female, 20-year-old male and 93-year-old male have tested positive. A 11-year-old boy, a 33-year-old female and 38-year-old male from Vijayanagar Railway Layout, all having travel history of Tamil Nadu, have tested positive. A 59-year-old Police constable from J.C. Nagar Third Cross and a 32-year-old male from Shivarampet who has a travel history of Rajasthan have tested positive.

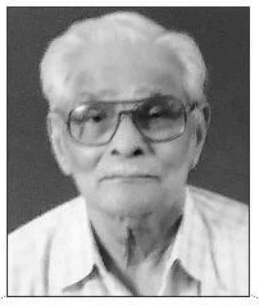
Swab-collection centres

(Continued from page 1)

The VRDL is an integral part of the Medical College. It is a centralised laboratory where all the COVID-19 cases in the region are tested.

On the present testing front, Abhiram Sankar said that every day, over 600 samples are tested at the VRDL lab and also at the state-of-the-art "PARAKH- a Mobile Microbial Containment (BSL-3) Laboratory developed by Defence Food Research Laboratory which has been stationed at the K.R. Hospital premises. Till yesterday (June 22), 16,881 samples have been tested and of them, 16,711 samples have been found negative.

SAD DEMISE



DOB 20.05.1935 DOD 23.6.2020

Prof. B.B. RAJAPUROHIT

Rtd. Professor of Linguistics and Phonetics,
Central Institute of Indian Languages.

Anna you are so unique in ways words can't express
You've seen unusual situations which can only be heard in stories
You've achieved everything in ways which is difficult even for normal people
You've dreamt big and fulfilled every dream with sheer will power
Even in your death you are so unique that your tale can be told to the next generations

Inserted by: **Daughters - Kalpana & Vandana, Sons-in-law, Grand Children & Relatives**

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